

The Honorable Craig R. Fry
Indiana House of Representatives
200 West Washington
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Dear Mr. Fry:

Thank you for your letter dated August 4, 2010 concerning the VIM Recycling, Inc. site (the "VIM site") in Elkhart, Indiana. I realize that this is a priority issue for you and your constituents, and I am aware of your past communications with my staff.

As you know, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has jurisdiction for water, air and solid waste permitting at VIM, and is the lead governmental agency for environmental issues at this facility. EPA acted quickly and aggressively in response to IDEM's request for assistance to address the C-pile. Our efforts led to the extinguishing and removal of all smoldering debris within six months. EPA inspector(s) were on site nearly every day to ensure that smoke, fires and odors were minimized to the greatest extent possible. I am confident that this approach led to the quickest, most efficient, and safest manner of addressing the C-pile. EPA staff were directly responsive to all citizen complaints and inquiries, many times responding in person and distributing three different Fact Sheets door-to-door in the surrounding neighborhood over the course of the project.

We have attempted to respond to all of your inquiries, and have reviewed all of the information submitted to us by you and your constituents during the last several years. On July 21, 2010, EPA mailed a response to your July 13, 2010 e-mail, but it was returned to our office on July 30, 2010. Another copy of the response was mailed on August 2, 2010 (see enclosure).

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, I have asked Bruce Sypniewski, Acting Director, Land & Chemicals Division, and Paul Ruesch, VIM Project Manager, to be available to meet with you either in person or by telephone. You may contact Ronna Beckmann or Denise Gawlinski, the EPA Region 5 Intergovernmental Liaisons, at 312-886-3000 to arrange the meeting. Again, thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

Susan Hedman
Regional Administrator

Enclosure